



H.R. 2771 – Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill, 2008

Executive Summary

The House will consider H.R. 2771 – Legislative Branch Appropriations, 2008, on June 21, 2007, pursuant to a structured rule. H.R. 2771 provides \$3.1 billion in appropriations, which is \$276 million less than the President's request and \$122 million more than the FY2007 enacted level (a 6.7% increase). This bill is 1 of only 4 bills that is below the President's request for FY2008.

This bill provides for the funding of the Legislative Branch and related entities. For instance, funding for the Architect of the Capitol is included in this appropriations bill.

The 2008 Legislative Branch Appropriations bill begins the funding for the "Green the Capitol" initiative announced earlier this year by Speaker Pelosi (D-CA). A total of \$3.9 million is appropriated to begin the House's transformation to use renewable energy sources to fuel the House. The bill also requires the House to purchase carbon credits to offset carbon produced by the operations of the House. Additionally, the bill requires the creation of an E-85 gas pump for the use of House vehicles.

During the earmark debate that occurred last week, the Democrat leaders agreed to bring the 8 remaining FY2008 appropriations bills to the floor with earmarks listed in the bills. However, the H.R. 2771 does not contain any earmarks.

Floor Situation

H.R. 2771 is being considered on the floor under a structured rule. The rule:

- Provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Appropriations.
- Waives all points of order against its consideration of the bill except for clauses 9 (earmarks) and 10 (PAYGO) of Rule XXI.
- Waives points of order against provisions that fail to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI.

**Note: This provision waives the House Rule that prohibits authorizing language in an appropriations bill. All Republican Ranking Members signed a letter in*

object to this tactic.

- Makes in order only those amendments reported in the rule. Each amendment will be considered under the 5 minute rule.
- Provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.
- Provides that, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to a time designated by the Speaker.

This legislation was introduced by Representative Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL) on June 19, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Appropriations, by voice vote, on June 12, 2007.

The bill is expected to be considered on the floor on June 21, 2007.

Summary

Overall funding levels:

FY 2008 Proposal	President's Request	FY 2007 Enacted
\$3.1 billion	\$3.4 billion	\$2.9 billion

*Note: Monetary levels in this Legislative Digest reflect discretionary funding levels, or 302(b)s.

Title I – Legislative Branch Appropriation

	FY 2008 Proposal	President's Request	FY 2007 Enacted
House of Representatives	\$1.2 billion	\$1.2 billion	\$1.1 billion
Joint Items	\$21 million	\$27.5 million	\$24 million
Capitol Police	\$286 million	\$299 million	\$266 million
Office of Compliance	\$3.8 million	\$4.1 million	\$3.1 million
Congressional Budget Office	\$37.8 million	\$37.9 million	\$35.2 million
Architect of the Capitol	\$348 million	\$394 million	\$383 million
Library of Congress	\$573 million	\$662 million	\$509 million
Government Printing Office	\$126 million	\$182 million	\$122 million
Government Accountability	\$503 million	\$523 million	\$481 million

Office			
Open World Leadership	\$6 million	\$14.4 million	\$13.9 million
Stennis Center	\$430 thousand	\$430 thousand	\$430 thousand

House of Representatives

- Funds salaries and expenses for Member offices (MRAs), leadership offices, committees (including the Committee on Appropriations), and officers and staff of the House.

Capitol Visitors' Center

- \$27.5 million is appropriated for the completion of the complex and operational costs.
- During the committee markup, the 580,000-square-foot welcome center was named the "Emancipation Hall."

Capitol Police

- Of the \$286 million, \$224.5 million is appropriated for salaries of officers and \$61.5 million for general expenses.
- The bill includes \$5 million for radio modernization program.
- Requires the Chief of Police and the Librarian of Congress to agree on the number of Capitol Police officers assigned to the Library of Congress.

Architect of the Capitol

- Creates the Office of the Inspector General to audit and report semi-annually on management and operational issues.
- \$3.27 million is provided to switch the House from coal to natural gas for heating and cooling; and \$500,000 for an ethanol gas station to service House vehicles.
- The bill provides \$16 million for the former FDA building, known as Federal Office Building 8, located adjacent to the Ford House Office Building. The intent is for the House to occupy 200,000 square feet of this building, with a total cost to the House and the Architect of the Capitol of \$55.6 million, at a minimum. In addition, annual lease payments will be in the range of \$10 to \$15 million per year.

- The bill appropriates \$100,000 for the expenditure of energy efficient light bulbs.

Library of Congress

- \$12.5 million is appropriated for the conversion of books to new digital talking books to serve the blind.

Open World Leadership Center

- During the committee markup, the Open World Leadership Center (OWLC) was funded at \$6 million, when it previously only received \$1 million in the bill. In addition, the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs fiscal year 2008 appropriation bill provided \$6 million to be transferred to the OWLC Trust Fund. The total funding for the Center will be \$12 million. Language was included to transfer the OWLC to the Department of State on October 1, 2008.

Amendments to be considered Pursuant to the Rule

Reps. Harman (D-CA)/Upton (R-MI)/Inglis (R-SC)/Lipinski (D-IL): The amendment would prohibit funds from being used for the purchase of any light bulb that is not Energy Star rated.

Rep. Flake (R-AZ): The amendment reduces funding for the Government Printing Office--Congressional Printing and Binding by \$3,200,000.

Rep. Jordan (R-OH): The amendment reduces appropriations in the bill by 4% across the board.

Cost

This bill has been scored by the Congressional Budget Office to be within the 302(b) allocations.

Staff Contact

For questions or further information contact Chris Vieson at (202) 226-2302.